THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) and (b) For overseeing or monitoring the quality control on meat and meat products, the Central Government under this Ministry is implementing Meat Food Products Order, 1973 which is promulgated under Essential Commodities Act, 1955 to regulate the manufacture and sale of hygienic and wholesome meat food products in the country.

(c) to (f) In order to promote meat and poultry sector in the country, the Ministry proposes to set up a National Meat and Poultry Processing Board for promoting establishment of integrated meat processing plants for meat/dressed chicken production. The Board will work for the furtherance of Government policy to promote exports & domestic sale of better quality meat/poultry meat products with specific emphasis to improve, the sanitary and hygienic conditions for production of meat/ poultry meat products in the country.

Indo-France joint panel for food processing sector

†747. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether an Indo-France joint panel has been formed for the cooperation in the food processing sector;

(b) if so, whether the technology for agro products to be included under the food processing, would also be transferred; and

(c) the food stuffs which would be covered under the food processing sector between Indian and France?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) to (c) A sub-committee for food processing within the framework of Joint Working Group on agriculture is envisaged for closer interaction for bilateral cooperation between India and France, No joint panel between India and France has been set-up for the cooperation in the food processing sector. The sub-committee will facilitate cooperation for technology collaboration on cold chain, specifically of controlled atmosphere technology and other areas like Mega Food Park, milk products, dairying equipments, retail sector, beverages industries, Grape Wine Sector including technical know-how to improve quality and standardization of domestically produced wine, technology for grape cultivation and processing, market access for Indian wine and human resource development in wine sector would be the main area of cooperation.

Public sector food processing industry for Nagpur

748. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Nagpur is the biggest producer of good quality oranges and has great potential for food processing industry;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

(b) if so, whether any food processing industry has been set up there in the public sector;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) Nagpur which is one of the major orange producing areas, has great potential for food processing industry.

(b) to (d) Two Public Sector food processing units under Maharashtra Agro Industries Development Corporation exist in Nagpur. This Ministry has been implementing various Plan Schemes for promotion and development of food processing industries and to attract investment in food processing sector in order to give boost to agro- food processing. Under the Scheme for Technology Upgradation/Modernisation/Establishment of food processing industries, Ministry of Food Processing Industries extends financial assistance to food processing units in the form of grant-in-aid @ 25% of the cost of plant and machinery and technical civil works subject to maximum of Rs. 50.00 lakhs in general areas and 33.33% subject to maximum of Rs. 75.00 lakhs in difficult areas such as Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttrakhand, Sikkim and North Eastern States, A and N Islands, Lakshadweep and ITDP Areas. Food processing units using Orange as raw material are eligible for assistance under the Scheme.

Capacity of food processing and cold storages

749. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any scheme to enhance the capacity of food processing and cold storages in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total extent of loss suffered due to poor storage facilities during the last three years;

(d) the total amount allocated to improve the storage facilities during that period, State-wise; and

(e) the extent of increase registered in the capacity of cold storages by each State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) to (e) Ministry of food Processing Industries has been providing financial assistance in the form of grant-in-aid for Technology Upgradation/Establishment/Modernization of food processing industries upto 25% of the cost of plant & machinery and technical civil works subject to a maximum of Rs. 50 lakhs in general areas and up to 33.33% in difficult areas subject to a maximum of Rs. 75 lakhs to various implementing agencies for the overall development of Food Processing sector.